



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SANDERS ISSUES “BOIL WATER” ORDER FOR NORTH INLAND NEIGHBORHOODS

EMERGENCY ORDER COMES AS RESULT OF BACTERIA LEVELS FOUND IN CITY WATER SYSTEM FOLLOWING WATER MAIN BREAK.

San Diego, August 5, 2006, 1938 PDT – San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders has announced a mandatory boil water order for certain, limited communities of the City of San Diego. This precautionary need comes about as the result of a positive test for E coli. found in one testing site in a Rancho Penasquitos neighborhood this morning.

The communities affected by this mandatory order are Rancho Penasquitos; Carmel Mountain Ranch; Rancho Bernardo, Bernardo Heights; Bernardo Trails; Bernardo Oaks; Oaks North; Pomerado Park and the Lake Hodges area.

The Mayor has announced the street boundaries for the boil water as:

- Mercy Road and Scripps Poway Parkway on the south
- The border with the City of Poway on the east (areas within the City of Poway are not included in this order)
- Lake Hodges on the north, and
- 5 miles west of I-15

The order applies only to communities within these boundaries served by the City of San Diego’s Water Department.

At an early evening news conference today in Rancho Penasquitos, the Mayor reported the facts surrounding his decision to institute the “boil water” order. He reported that on Tuesday, August 1st, there was a water main break on Talca Avenue just north of Oviedo Street. As is standard practice, a test was taken for total coliform bacteria, including E coli. The test was conducted on August 2nd and the testing site was a water spigot at a private home.

The Mayor reported that the test results, which came back on Thursday, August 3rd, were positive for total coliform bacteria but negative for E coli. A second test was conducted on Friday, August 4th at the same site.

The most recent test results came back early Saturday afternoon from the Water Department's laboratory and were positive for the presence both total coliform and E coli. bacteria. E coli is an indicator of fecal matter present in the water sample taken and tested.

The Mayor, acting out of an abundance of caution and in consultation with the State Department of Health Services, issued the boil water notice for the communities listed in his announcement in order to protect and safeguard the public health. The Mayor issued the notice under the emergency powers granted to him by the City Charter.

Though there is no way to positively identify the specific source causing the presence of the bacteria the Mayor has ordered City teams to begin tracking down every possible lead. The Mayor announced that a positive test could have come about as the result of fecal matter in the dirt which found its way into the broken water main pipe and consequently, into the water system. The Mayor has instructed City crews to make all possible efforts run down this issue. The Mayor also announced that there is reason to believe that this problem may be limited to this immediate neighborhood.

To help address community concerns with this announcement, the Mayor has ordered the activation of the City's Water Emergency Hotline. The hotline will have updated information about the boil water order and can be accessed by calling 619-570-1070.

On the Mayor's orders, testing crews were deployed throughout the affected areas and took new tests at 17 different sites. Test results are expected by early evening on Sunday, August 6.

The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health has ordered that facilities preparing food for the public must close until the boil water order is lifted. The County will be visiting these restaurants and informing them of this requirement.

The Mayor will be providing information about test results in an early evening press conference on Sunday, August 6.

NOTE:

DO NOT DRINK WATER FROM THE AFFECTED AREA WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, **let it boil for at least one (1) minute**, and let it cool before using. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling water kills bacteria and other organisms in the water and assures that the water is safe to drink.

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